

# The West African Examinations Council



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The Honourable Minister  
Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education  
New England  
Freetown

Thro'  
The Chief Education Officer  
Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education  
Freetown

Dear Honourable Minister,

## CREATION OF A RESULT CHECKER PLATFORM BY THE MINISTRY OF BASIC AND SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

I have the honour of presenting to you compliments of The West African Examinations Council (WAEC). I wish to also convey to you profound appreciation for your efforts at strengthening WAEC's collaboration with your Ministry and for the various initiatives which are impacting positively on the Council's operations in Sierra Leone.

At a meeting of the Sierra Leone Examinations Committee (SLEC) of WAEC held recently in Freetown, it was reported that the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) had created an online result checker platform and displayed for free access by candidates for the 2021 NPSE and BECE, despite the existence of a functional WAEC Result Checker facility - [www.waecsierra-leone.org](http://www.waecsierra-leone.org).

The Council has viewed this development as most inappropriate and deeply worrisome, in view of its immediate and long-term implications for the Council, the education sector and the Sierra Leonean child. Due to the likelihood of operational and security implications, it is not the Council's practice to release soft copy of whole examination results to any requesting authority outside the Council. Therefore, what the Management of the Freetown Office did in that regard was an infraction of the Council's extant procedure. Moreover, there is an existing Agreement between WAEC and a Service Provider for the exclusive hosting and management of examination data on a dedicated platform. Any deliberate action by either party in contravention of the terms of the Agreement would be a defiant invitation to litigation.

Honourable Minister, we appreciate your expertise in the field of technology, and with your vast knowledge and experience in the field, we have no doubt that you are quite aware of the endless possibilities and threats to which the huge volumes of data for the 2021 NPSE and BECE are being exposed or subjected on the result checker platform created by MBSSE. As an individual

technology expert, you certainly possess all that is required to operate, maintain and protect a website or online platform, but considering the transient nature of all appointments, the continued existence and safety of the platform may not be guaranteed in an event of your redeployment to another ministry.

Permit me to highlight some of the inevitable consequences of the action taken by MBSSE as it concerns WAEC's examinations data.

1. The integrity of the Council's data on the candidates involved in the examinations would be jeopardized;
2. The stakeholders would be confused and unable to determine the authenticity of both platforms or know the platform to approach for result issuance, confirmation and verification;
3. Institutions and employers within and outside Sierra Leone would subject the WASSCE results and certificates issued in the country to more rigorous verification due to multiple issuing platforms;
4. Litigation is imminent, as MBSSE's action violates the terms of the agreement between WAEC and the company that hosts the Council's Result Checker facility in Sierra Leone;
5. The conduct of examinations ahead of payment of fees by the Government of Sierra Leone would no longer be feasible, as the revenue due the Council and the Result Checker service provider is usually borrowed to pre-finance examinations;
6. It is doubtful that the level of security deployed to safeguard WAEC's website against manipulation by fraudsters would be put in place by MBSSE due to the huge costs involved;
7. The progressive release or updating of results by WAEC from the provisional results to the consolidated results would lead to conflicting data on the two platforms;
8. There would be muddled or inaccurate information and data on the platforms concerning the processing of malpractice cases (from the withholding of results to the implementation of SLEC decisions) and the handling of requests for review of script.

In view of the adverse implications highlighted above, among a host of others, I wish to solicit your kind intervention, Honourable Minister, to immediately shut down the MBSSE result checker platform to prevent the danger it portends and facilitate necessary consultation between WAEC and MBSSE on the issue.

I wish to use this opportunity to renew to you, Honourable Minister, the assurances of the Council's highest consideration and esteem.

Yours faithfully,



Mustapha G. Koroma  
OIC, WAEC, Freetown  
for: **THE REGISTRAR**